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Pakistan: The new military regime seems to be getting under way smoothly.

The administration appears to be moving with dispatch, having already rushed food shipments to East Pakistan where critical shortages were developing. Major opposition leaders remain silent, and the drab fare in newspapers across the country indicates that censorship is once again in effect.

The military is maintaining a low profile, however, with few troops in evidence in the cities and the only arrests thus far reported are of 21 persons in the Karachi area who are charged with inciting workers to strike.

[redacted] the regime sees the first two months as the most important for it. Yahya has let it be known that he will not tolerate any actions that might jeopardize his effectiveness as martial law administrator. In this connection, he has stated that "there will be no autonomy for East Pakistan." Martial law will remain in effect until Yahya and his advisers feel that the situation throughout the country has returned to normal. At present, they believe that this will take at least a year.

Until normal life has been restored, no partisan political activities will be permitted. Although the new regime does not plan to punish politicians for past activities, it will not hesitate to take "whatever action is appropriate" if the moratorium on politicking is violated. Yahya has said that when the time comes for a return to civilian rule, he will permit no more than three political parties to operate. He believes that it would be impossible to maintain stability if the present multitude of parties were allowed to compete again.

[redacted]

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